

DRAFT

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Approved For Release 2000/08/30 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000200360004-8
NSC BRIEFING

13 July 1954

PALESTINE TRUCE MACHINERY NEAR COLLAPSE

I. The Situation

A. New fighting on Israel's Jordanian, Syrian and Egyptian borders during past two weeks evidences near collapse of UN truce supervision organization.

1. Fighting in Jerusalem on 1 July ended only after 4th

25X6 cease-fire arranged by UN. Israeli and Jordanian army

25X6

units involved. 9 killed. Holy places hit or endangered.

25X6

2. On 30 June Israeli police boat illegally patrolling Lake Tiberias fired on by Syrian shore battery. 2 killed, 5 injured.

3. Israeli patrol and Egyptian outpost in Gaza strip battled on 10 July. Most recent of recurrent incidents. 6 killed.

B. This Situation Caused By:

1. Israeli discreditation of UN machinery: Israel has been boycotting Israeli-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission;

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Israeli press
has accused UN observers of bias against Israel; has
demanded removal of Hutchison, chairman of Israeli-
Jordanian commission, and UN chief observer Bennike.

ISRAELI Army spokesman said on 12 July: "Israel's confidence
in UN machinery is shattered." 25X6

2. Israeli aggressive border policy:

25X6

25X6

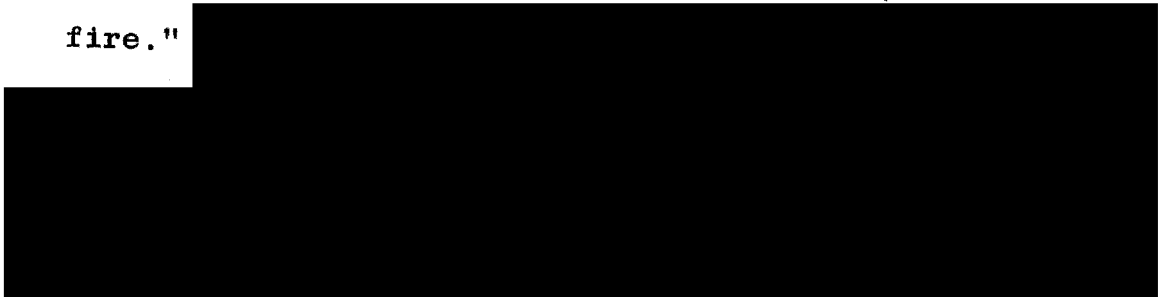
25X6

a. Top Israeli officers are reliably reported "quite
happy about present situation." It enables them to
"exact ten teeth for a tooth" and keeps the army on the
"qui vive."

3. High tension resulting from aggressiveness. In Jerusalem,
Jordanian as well as Israeli civilians share military
tension which appears at times nearly uncontrollable.
Pattern of fighting was: Civilian rock-throwing-
sniping-army units in action.

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- 25X6 4. Jordan government has adopted a policy of "returning
fire."
- 25X6
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II. Expectations

A. Continuing tension, new outbreaks, mutual ^{RE}discriminations.

B. Increased Israeli attack on uselessness and bias of UN
truce machinery.

1. Non-cooperative attitude on part of Israel ^{TOWARD} recent
proposals for strengthening the truce machinery.

2. Unrealistic Israeli insistence ^Ethat Arab states make
peace on basis of existing situation in area.

3. Some army officers will continue aggressive policy,
still hoping for right circumstances which will permit
full-scale military solution of border situation.

4. Present moderate Israeli government under Sharett will
probably be restrained by its dependence on West and
threat of possible British action.

C. Arabs will continue demand that West discipline Israel.

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1. Iraqi prime minister and foreign minister have separately recommended West proceed with UN-sponsored internationalization of Jerusalem. Israel, emotionally interested in Jerusalem, would not accept this. Arab insistence on this point might only raise more problems in UN.
2. Individual Arabs will continue cause trouble. Armies and governments may be pushed by civilian pressure and Israeli aggressiveness to adopt potentially explosive defensive policies. Responsible Arabs, however, aware of Israeli military superiority, will not seek war.

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